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The Bahlia Farm

"On The Sunrise Trail"

EAST MORICHES

LONG ISLAND

NEW YORK

NINETEEN TWENTY-SIX

Order Early

AS ORDERS ARE FILLED IN ROTATION—with field grown roots only—ordering early will insure the reservation of varieties that later may be sold out. *CASH WITH ORDER.* All orders will be shipped after May 1st, by express or insured mail at my expense. Dahlias ordered shipped before April 15th will be sent at PURCHASER'S RISK of dry out, freezing or rotting.

GUARANTEE—I guarantee safe arrival of all goods. I guarantee all bulbs to be true to name, and will cheerfully replace if not. **DO NOT PLANT TUBERS IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF SAME.** Put in warm, sunny position, cover lightly with damp sand, and when sprout or eye makes positive growth, plant where desired. If, for any reason, tubers fail to grow, they can be returned at once, without labor or loss of time, with tag attached, and each tuber so returned, within 25 days from date on which I shipped your order, will be replaced without cost.

ERRORS—While my system for handling orders is as near perfect as possible, in the rush of business errors are possible. If promptly notified of such, will at once make same satisfactory. Keep copy of your order for comparison.

REMITTANCES should be made by bank draft, post-office money order or registered letter. *POSTOFFICE MONEY ORDERS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE AT EAST MORICHES, N. Y.* Postage stamps accepted up to \$2.00. All orders under \$2.00 add 25 cents for Parcel Post and Insurance.

NAME AND ADDRESS—Remember to write your *Name, Postoffice, County and State Plainly.*



ERE are two rules that ought to be written on every heart; never believe anything bad about anybody unless you know it is true; never tell even that unless you feel it is absolutely necessary and that God is listening while you tell it.—Henry Van Dyke.

* * *

Courage for the great sorrows of life, and patience for the small ones, and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.—Victor Hugo.

* * *

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.—Mark Twain.

* * *

Put it down as a cold hard fact that the man who has to rattle the baby's bank for carfare isn't going to evolve into a Baron Rothschild.—Elbert Hubbard.

* * *

I love to walk out in the afternoon and see the young men of fashion promenading in the park, because they make me think of Brummel, and Brummel was the greatest of them all, and Brummel's father was a footman.—W. M. Thackeray.

* * *

We all have sufficient fortitude to endure the troubles of others.—Rochefoucauld.

* * *

Foolishness and wisdom increase with age.—Rochefoucauld.

* * *

"I hardly ever 'ope my lips," one cries;
"Simonides, what think you of this rule?"
"If you're a fool, I think you're very wise;
If you are wise, I think you are a fool."

—Richard Garnett.

Fontainebleau

(AUTUMN)

Interminable palaces front on the green
parterres
And ghosts of ladies lovely and im-
moral
Glide down the gilded stairs;
The high cold corridors are clicking
with the heel-taps
That long ago were theirs.

But in the sunshine, in the vague autumn
sunshine
The geometric gardens are desolately
gay;
The crimson and scarlet and rose-red
dahlias
Are painted like the ladies who used
to pass this way
With a ringletted monarch, a Henry or
a Louis,
On a lost October day.

The aisles of the garden lead into the
forest.
The aisles lead into autumn, a damp
wind grieves;
Ghostly kings are hunting, the boar breaks
cover,
But the sounds of horse and horn are
hushed in falling leaves,
Four centuries of autumns, four cen-
turies of leaves.

SARA TEASDALE.

"Come, come," said Tom's father, "at your time of life,

There's no longer excuse for playing the rake,—

It is time you should think, boy, of taking a wife,"—

"Why, so it is, father,—whose wife shall I take?"

—Thomas Moore.

* * *

"I would," says Fox, "a tax devise

That shall not fall on me."

"Then tax receipts," Lord North replies,

"For those you never see."

—Sheridan.

* * *

We are firm believers in the maxim that, for all right judgment of any man or thing, it is useful, nay, essential, to see his good qualities before pronouncing on his bad.—Carlyle.

* * *

When a man dies they who survive him ask what property he has left behind. The angel who bends over the dying man asks what good deeds he has sent before him.—The Koran.

* * *

I speak truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare; and I dare a little the more as I grow older.—Montaigne.

* * *

Where grows?—where grows it not? If vain our toil,

We ought to blame the culture, not the soil.

—Pope.

* * *

We are our own fates. Our own deeds
Are our doomsmen. Man's life was made
Not for men's creeds,
But men's actions.

Owen Meredith.

In the Log's Glow,
Jan. 20, 1926.

MR. R. E. RAWDON,
Miami Beach, Fla.

DEAR RAWDON:

I tender my thanks for your invitation, and my sympathy for your lack of understanding. An all-year summer has no appeal to one who lived so long in the tropics that today, while his wife and daughters skim the bay on blades of steel, he must sit forlorn upon the bank, too incompetent to join the rout, too old to learn the art. That long ago year of mis-spent life with you in Fernandina and St. Augustine, the long hike to Miami when we left the creeping steel rails behind us, has all the enchantment of distance, and the eight months of 1909-10 my wife and I spent on the Yankee cruising among the Keys, the wonderful hours when I took the "Enterprise" across the Great Bahama Bank, the delightful winter in Nassau, I live over and over again, in memory, old son, by my log fire here, and I shall never risk the loss of my dreams by trying to prove them true. The months in California I value most because they bring me the satisfaction of knowing that I do not have to live my winters in San Francisco, nor my summers in Santa Clara, and all our journeys up and down the world together were well worth-while to me because they gave me the best of opportunities to select the finest spot on earth to live, and when one says that of a spot neither his birthplace nor his "ain countree," the statement should carry weight, more especially when that one has tried forty states, and five continents. All this going to and fro has armored me against any lure by the easy money you suggest, any possibility of my offering the last few years of my life on the altar of that "dolce far niente" existence that has place only in the South Sea Islands of the screen or the "blah" fictioneer. As for the unearned increment that I failed to pre-empt, my interest in it I bequeath to you with my blessing, trusting you will grab same while the grab is good. A state fifty times the size of Long Island, with half the population, must be long on land, so if you hold any part of the 56,000 square miles, be sure when you turn it over enough real money is left with you to guarantee the land will not return gain, when the tax collector comes around. The same thing is happening here, six acres of waterfront changing hands three times in as many weeks, at \$16,000.00, \$24,000.00 and \$32,000.00, but I'll bet there was less real money passed than would keep me in cigars a year. The procession of real estate men seems endless, offers mount overnight, \$10,000.00 is chicken-feed to them, but many skyrocketing sales listen like a rush of hot air, and part of the easy money will be the hard cash that I cough in added taxes. Bah! A few sharks, a school of minnows.

Regarding the dahlia proposition, from past experience and history, any large attempt in your state spells failure from an economic standpoint, though there are varieties and seasons that will suit each other. Two large growers have wasted their substance there, but the amateur gardener has succeeded with some few plants, though one can only guess at the labor and cost of the few good flowers. We have tried several varieties at Miami and on Anastasia Island, and though visitors rhapsodised over the blooms, they were less than poor in my eyes. There is a long cry from the dahlias at Blundeston and St. Sampson to the dahlias of the A. D. S. Show, and I doubt if success is possible under the present keen competition, without one is blessed with both business ability and love of the work. What little I have accomplished is not proof that there is easy success in dahlia specializing, but rather that great love of any work will bring some measure of triumph to even the biggest duffer. Your rating of my knowledge makes me laugh. If there is any grower who knows less than I about any growing thing I have failed to meet him, and a small part of the things I know nothing of would need more pages than the whole Encyclopedia Britannica for index alone. The desire to learn is greater than knowledge, and there is a charm the dahlia spreads that is not equalled by any other growing thing. The range of type and color is wide as the universe, and even among the older varieties there is always novelty and romance. I can live among all the glamor of William Harrison Ainsworth with the fields in bloom, and when the seas run in before a sou'-

easter, and drums the beach like the bass in Vachel Lindsay's "Congo," and the bay lap, lap, laps around the alders at the foot of the garden, it holds all Cooper and Marryatt and R. L. S. There is more real romance, old shipmate, in my garden than we found banging up and down the seven seas. Real romance is only enjoyed when one is well fed, in comfort, and without care. What price romance when that white-capped jade wall clean swept the "Nora Creina?" What price glory to the straining shellbacks who sweated the yawl up under the lee of that damned old timber drogher near the Texel lightship? Ask the skipper who stayed aboard and was honored for his valor with the binoculars from the king of Norway and Sweden. What saith the Talmud? "The soldiers fight, and the kings are heroes."

When the Britannia drove ashore under Withersea Heights the real romance, striking me as I clawed up the beach clear of the growling undertow, was the wonder of our driving in clear of Flamborough Head, but I get a better kick still when I listen to my daughters hobnobbing with Fraser's pirates and Finger's highwaymen, building centuries of romance here among the dahlias. They take flowers blazing with the colors that remind them of olden bravos or conquistadores, and name them after pet villains or heroines, crusaders or buccaneers, and make me forget the glorious blooms are christened for the wife of a bootlegger, mayhap, or the daughter of some butter and egg man.

Regarding the shows to see when you reach New York, few are worth recommendation, and you will be too late for the best, the Moscow Art Theatre Company and Basil Sydney's Hamlet. The latter, after a hard struggle, finished at the Hecksher in a blaze of glory. My thirty-first Hamlet. You remember how we raved over Irving's and hissed that babu who strutted the part at the rotten old Royal in Calcutta? Well! I enjoyed Basil Sydney's conception of the part beyond any I have seen. To get a better line on the play's value I took my daughters to the Booth for the matinee, and to the Hampden at night, and all four of them, nine to seventeen, laid the laurel at the door of the Booth. Helen Chandler's Ophelia gave them all the snivels, but Ethel Barrymore's portrayal failed to stir them. To prove how genuine was their feeling for the modern Hamlet, they preferred to spend \$3.30 each of their hard saved nickels for seats again at the Hecksher, though they had the choice of The Merchant of Venice at the Hampden, at my expense. And each decided there was a little humor lost from the Polonius, and that Gertrude Bryan was good, but lacking the appeal of Helen Chandler, and that many moons would wane ere they looked again on the equal of Basil Sydney, who does not know he has four willing captives trotting in the dust of his chariot wheels.

Of most of the other plays seen, the less said the better. "Hay Fever" a charming, airy thing, was too clean to be a hit, and "Twelve Miles Out," which is not, remains in my mind as the crowning mess of absurd hokum that I ever saw staged. As a seaman, its direction would give you the "willies." There is one great moment in the play, when the skipper and the mate of the hi-jacker face each other in a contest of wills. It panders to the average New Yorker's antagonism to the eighteenth amendment, and delights his ears with the blackguardisms that so many playwrights think essential to the new realism. "Desire Under the Elms," "What Price Glory" and "White Cargo" used such language sparingly in comparison.

I am glad you liked "White Cargo" so much. A greater play than "Rain," more gripping than "What Price Glory," with bigger demands upon the main character, yet when I saw it during the first week's run I expected it to have hard sledding. The clippings of letters criticising the play that you sent me would be funny if the authors were not so earnest, and show we all shine, "each according to his light." Mr. Walker's letter only proved how circumscribed must be one man's observation of the life around him, how small the diameter of the circle in which he moved. It gave me almost the same pain as I endured when reading a critique of "What Price Glory," by G. Valentine Williams, whom I wished had stuck "With Our Army in Flanders." Of course an Englishman within the circle still clinging to tradition could not admit Flagg possible. But drama is not built on the obvious, the usual.

During a few weeks in Foundionne and Rufisque I spent many hours with an Irishman whose wife might have

been the counterpart of Tondeleyo a few years before I saw her. This glorified beachcomber, with whom Munchausen would be shamed into silence, who claimed Trinity for a soul mother, and whose erudition proved him the product of some such school, was legally married to the woman, whom I believe was in service for some time at Dakar. The priests at the mission in Rufisque, and the French factors who represented the Marseilles firm for whom we loaded pea—tut, tut! monkey nuts, would have given him no place in a description of the white life on the coast of Senegal. In every out of the way place in the world one is apt to meet such a man, result of environment and character. Tondeleyo is unusual, and such natives are scarce, true; but she is a perfect study of what the breed becomes when the white man gives her a little rope. And, of course, Mr. Gordon is too good a dramatist to magnify the usual.

Chippie, a graduate of Carlisle who had slipped down the banisters backward into the primevals, and hung to the outskirts of the lumber camps north of Fort Walker in the late 90's, was a case in point. When the veneer wore off, no Nitche in northern Minnesota could have reached down to this daughter of the Chippewas. She too claimed a few of the squawmen plentiful enough around Bemidji at that time.

And for the sake of accuracy an "Ex-resident of Nigeria" may be informed that it is not necessary that Gordon be confined to the rubber country, nor Nigeria. Up and down the coast from Dakar to Loando he could find plenty of back-ground for his thrilling drama. The coastal port might be a long way down from the rubber country, and entirely different conditions prevail. The towns are not, as he says, built on spiles, except in very unfavorable terrain, and along most of the coast huts and bungalows are on the ground. The "Ex-resident" says "sand and cacti are unknown to the West Coast." How much of the West Coast? Bah! One may steam many a league with the same sand edging the water. White men with soiled clothes are no rarity on the coast. In the "Ex-resident's" set, admitted, but it takes the demand of social law, the presence of white women, to keep a man to form. Outside of "Ex-resident's" circle of observations soiled clothes are the usual, as habit and training disintegrate without social discipline, and a boy can be used for many purposes more relevant to the living of the day than washing clothes. Captains and engineers of such a craft as we sense in "White Cargo" differ a deal from the Captains of "Ex-resident's" knowing. Any beachcombing mucko might land such a river job, and bare feet are more than common on the coast, in spite of our cock-sure critic. Boating, walking the beach, working aboard, at any time, bare feet are the thing, as you very well know. In fact, my Irish play-boy did not have a shoe to his name.

Quinine is not always in liquid form, and from my observation it is more easily obtainable in the dry state. I suppose in the circle in which "Ex-resident" milled they used the liquid. And again, Witzel and his rawhide is not usual, but possible, as the fact that laws had to be passed to protect the natives from whipping proves it had been done, and laws are still broken now and then. Seeing the play again after a ten-month interval I found nothing in setting, color, character or dialogue to cavil out, and I get as much kick from Witzel yet as I do when I remember Oscar Asche's Maldonado.

Don't worry if you miss anything else, except The Dybbuk, and perhaps "The Merchant of Venice" at the Hampden, though I doubt Ethel Barrymore and Hampden hanging together till you come north again.

As for your other troubles, uneasy is the pocket with a roll. It is possible I might be able to help you there, as well as with your garden project, for the first is very necessary to the second. Do not believe too much of what any of us say of our own seedlings, nor more than a small part of what any catalogue says of the newer varieties. Even with thousands of seedlings per season, the chances are against one being able to list new varieties each year, as the standard today is very high. Scores of highly touted dahlias wear the halo one or two fine blooms alone deserve, and there is hardly a modern dahlia I know that does not produce some blooms that would score 90, though there is only three varieties listed at present that deserve anything like a score that high, and most of the varieties you named in your list would have to depend on fanatical gush to reach the 85 mark. Before you buy, find out how the big market growers of cut flowers score the other fellow's babies, then wait a year and ask again. The score of a grower who does not have to stack his bunched flowers in crates, know they are dumped to the concrete from top of truck and rolled around by a dozen florists before being bought, isn't worth any more than a baby's gurgle of delight over a bursting rocket on the Fourth of July. I have

"raved" over a thousand dahlias, but you find I do not list them. I say good-bye to more new dahlias each season than most catalogues list, as well as the money they cost me, but "hope springs eternal." I'm just another when the new lists come out. When I hang to a variety year after year, you can rest assured that it is an economic success as well as being beautiful. What I may grow in my own little pet garden is a matter of sentiment, and not counted in dollars and cents. Remember that world wonders come not too often and one at a time, and take the air when the toastmaster oozes a bunch of superlatives. Constant yelling in the plaza, and printer's ink, make a cult, and if one says a thing often enough it may paralyze truth. Most of us talk of Fulton, but how many remember Fitch? Everyone knows the wonderful harbors of Sydney, New York, Rio and San Francisco, but how many know the grandest of them all, Trincomalee. Motto—"Let your light so shine"—Selah!

Ben Wilson is a very good flower, but 90 is bunk. As for Champagne, Tommy Atkins, Wizard of Oz, Ismalia, Rookwood and Calif. Superba, the first is the only one to score a real 80. The others are just good flowers on the bench, even though I do list them all, and as for President Wilson, taking into consideration the amount of money that has been wasted on that variety, and the near impossibility of getting a good tuber, it is one of the poorest varieties ever put on the market, and could not score 40 with all the charity of the Sermon on the Mount to help it. Patrick O'Mara is a very fine cut flower, but none too good a reproducer, and too small to score high, especially as there are so many of even better color now. That 89 Exh. is a carnival jest, as it is never exhibited, and as a variety for any purpose 78 is high. Sagamore is O. K. at 87, and Shudow's Lavender too low at 78. I have seen it scored only 60, but under what conditions I fail to understand, as it has beautiful foliage, a pleasing if rather insipid color, is a good reproducer here in the east, and several Californians have told me they find it larger and more beautiful here than at the Palace in 'Frisco, and with me it is floriferous and desirable, and I score it very high as my florist customers fight for it. It is in my best dozen, and scores 86, and the blooms hold to six inches till frost. Black Jack is too high at 80, much, but Eleanor Martin will rank higher.

The reason I do not grow many of the varieties you have picked from the high scoring lists you name is because I have grown them, and am dense enough to believe that I am a better judge of what I wish a dahlia to be than the originator whose glowing description was evidently penned over a bloom in the flat, rather than over the plant in the field. The burden of correspondence lies heavy upon us, so why add to the burden hundreds of explanations needed to solace disappointed buyers. Many people admire varieties I condemn, but it is easy to sell them a better dahlia of the same color at a lower price. Once upon a time a friend brought me FRANCIS SEAMAN and told me I would not grow MRS. I. DE VER WARNER again after I had seen the first bloom of Francis. To this day I have been unable to fathom judgment so much at odds with concrete facts. I wasted space and time for two years because the lady was my friend, and though Francis Seaman was left undug, unmourned, the lady is of the same opinion, and my friend still. MAID OF THE MIST is a beautiful flower, I will not deny you, for all dahlias are that, but the only dividend it will yield me is its fertilizing value to next year's crop. If you had named either of the other Slocombes, Faith or Winfield, both of which rank very high with me, I would say, keep them near the head. As for OUR COUNTRY, the name is wonderful, and might have sold it if visitors would notice it to the extent of asking what we called it. Even such as POLLYANNA, SILVER TIPS, MRS. CALVIN COOLIDGE sell somehow, as the fact of my buying them proves, but I could not sell them in the field, so they are still there.

As to failure of some I list in other sections of country, I do my best to eliminate this by discarding any that bring bad reports back to me. Because of the perfect climatic and soil conditions here, the sea air, the cool damp nights in summer, the perfect drainage the sandy loam gives, there is no other section of the country except perhaps a very small area of New Jersey, where the dahlia will do its best at so low a cost per acre. Give us two hours of sunlight after the forty days and forty nights of rain that made the flood, and the ploughs can take the field, and artificial irrigation is never needed. Because of these ideal conditions I demand near perfection from the varieties I catalogue, and I feel sure that any failing to prove good here will certainly not give satisfaction to the majority of buyers in other parts of the country.

As for the best magazines outside those listed, there are none, except "The Flower Grower," which should head the

parade, and a copy of which I send you, and the English "The Gardener's Chronicle."

The W. H. Compton Shear Co., 314 Camden Street, Newark, N. J., sell the best shears for any garden purpose. Gregg may be right, but I stick to horses. They live.

* * * * *

With a welcome from all the gang awaiting your trip North, I remain, as ever

Yours sincerely,



THE CORDOVA LAND CO.

Cordova, Ala., July 12, 1924.

The Dahlia Farm,

East Moriches, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Attention Mr. W. L. W. Darnell:

My exhibition bed of Dahlias consists of Mariposa, Jean Roosevelt, Kittie Dunlap, Dorothy Robbins, Louise Parsons, Mephistopheles, Nobilis, Meyerbeer, Agincourt, Islam Patrol, The Grizzley, Rosa Nell, Geo. Walters, Augusta R. Johnson, Ambassador, Mrs. I de Ver Warner, Amun Ra, Insulinde; every one being a masterpiece. In my opinion Jean Roosevelt surpasses them all. This morning I cut the best blossoms from Mariposa and Jean Roosevelt and placed them on a table side by side and called in my friends to pass judgment on them. Both specimens were glorious and very large. Of course Roosevelt was the larger as it is the largest dahlia I have ever seen. My friends pronounced them the two finest blossoms they had ever seen, but they unanimously picked Roosevelt as the winner. It has good strong stems even here in the hot South. Its glorious color, however, is its greatest charm. It is hard to describe; but I call it a delicate salmon pink with canary shadings in such wonderful proportion as to make it indescribably beautiful. I have always considered Mrs. Warner and Insulinde, the two best dahlias, but Roosevelt surpasses them.

Agincourt is the best crimson dahlia I have ever grown. It is head and shoulders above Mephistopheles.

I thank you for sending the extra tuber of Mrs. J. R. Howell.

Next season I will again report on Roosevelt and your other dahlias.

Very truly yours,

POPE M. LONG.

THE CORDOVA LAND CO.

Cordova, Ala., September 2, 1925.

The Dahlia Farm,

East Moriches, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Attention Mr. Darnell:

The unprecedented drought has made this the poorest season for DAHLIAS I have ever known in Alabama. Earl Williams has been the only one of the five received from you that has been normal. Jersey Beauty has grown about four feet tall and has produced two rather small flowers. It has not branched but has a slender stalk about four feet tall. INSULINDE and the WORLD'S BEST WHITE grew about one foot tall and lingered for a few weeks and died. These are the only two that I have lost.

My old stock purchased from you one and two years ago did very well indeed considering the drought. They seem to be acclimated. My best three this season are in this order—Mrs. I de Ver Warner, Jean Roosevelt and Mariposa. I have some dozen plants of these and all are now covered with buds and flowers and have been for over one month. They are over six feet tall and are far above the average. Amun Ra is good but not up to the standard of last year. Roosevelt is the largest flower in my garden but the stems this year are just a little weak for such a large blossom. This is why I place Mrs. Warner first this season. In fact I am inclined to rate Mrs. Warner the best all-around dahlia I have ever grown. Every bud opens into a perfectly ideal flower. Mari-

posa is also a glorious dahlia but is not as large as Roosevelt and I like the delicate salmon shades better than the lilac tints of Mariposa. I could not do without either. Agincourt and Meyerbeer are still my best reds, but the drought has hurt them worse than the three others above commented on. They have not grown over four feet tall but are well branched and have produced many flowers.

Very truly yours,

POPE M. LONG.

THE CORDOVA LAND CO.

Cordova, Ala., October 16, 1925.

The Dahlia Farm,

East Moriches, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Sirs:

Attention Mr. Darnell:

Some six weeks ago I made a partial report on Dahlias in my gardens and this will be my final report for 1925.

From the first of September we have had abundance of rain and no frost and dahlias have thrived wonderfully. They are now at their zenith. Some that showed best two months ago are now surpassed by several others that showed badly under the droughty conditions are now, under normal conditions among the best. Louise Parsons which showed badly then, is now the second best in my entire list and some place it first. It is of immense size with good strong stems that holds the flower up nicely at right angles to the stems. My first choice is still Mrs. I. de Ver Warner. This variety is even better than last year or year before last. Jean Roosevelt seems to have done its best early in the season and then quit. So has Amun Ra, neither has done as well as last year. Mariposa showed up well early in the season but the blooms are smaller than last year, the growth poorer and stems bad. It seems to have lost much of last year's vigor. Earl Williams, Islam Patrol and Ambassador have developed well in last six weeks and are better than last year. Tom Lundy has also proved reliable even if its stems are not the best for cutting. I wish that Agincourt had the vigor of Lundy. Agincourt is now covered with its glorious crimson blooms, but it too seems to have deteriorated in vigor. What causes dahlias to do this? I never knew it until this year. My peonies never deteriorate.

You remember that you sent me gratis a tuber of Scaramouche. It has thrived and is as thrifty as Tom Lundy and far more attractive. Here with me it is a cherry red or light scarlet and is the third most admired dahlia in my garden. Mrs. Long calls it the "RED BIRD" for it is exactly the color of the male cardinal birds which nest in our rose bushes. This is certainly a great dahlia when seasons are as this year.

Dorothy Robbins has proven a great disappointment this season. It has produced many flowers but they are small and nearly all semi-double. In color they are like King of the Autumn and seems to have run out just as that variety did. I will discard it.

Jersey Beauty is still a weak sickly looking plant and the few blooms it produced are very small and I am sure much inferior to what it might do if it had been a vigorous plant. It came near dying and has never recovered from the set-back. Insulinde and the World's Best White died without producing a bud.

Taking it as a whole we have had a glorious season and people far and near are coming to see the dahlia display. We are having a show of them today, especially for the ladies. Yesterday I took several good blooms to my brother and he and wife pronounced them the very prettiest flowers they had ever seen. My brother said they equaled or surpassed the best of my peonies.

Thanking you for past favors, I am

Very truly yours,

POPE M. LONG.

P. S. The vote of visitors to our garden has this result: 1, Mrs. Warner; 2, Jean Roosevelt and Mariposa tied, exactly the same number of votes.

THE DAHLIA FARM

East Moriches, L. I., October 19, 1925.

Mr. Pope M. Long, Pres.

The Cordova Land Co.,

Cordova, Ala.

Dear Mr. Long:

Your report is always of great interest to me, and the results in your garden bear out what seems to be general this year. With us, the early rains forced heavy growth, and then came a hot dry spell that hardened the wood and played the deuce with many varieties. DOROTHY ROBBINS, fine in

early July, was a beast in August. MRS. I de VER WARNER is still my favorite, though JERSEY'S BEAUTY and ELINOR VANDEVEER were best from the economic viewpoint, as the finest flowers from both fetched \$3.00 per dozen from retail florists. Sorry JERSEY'S BEAUTY was poor, but it may have been the fault in growing. White fly may stunt, or a pest at the root hold back and ruin a good plant. JEAN ROOSEVELT was poor here part of the season.

It does seem as if some varieties lack physique, and each year grow poorer, but I really think they are what I call "in and outers," demanding perfect conditions for a good showing, and fail to impress if weather is not ideal for them. The Dutch varieties all seem temperamental, and fail two years out of three.

JACQUELINE DARNELL is an immense flower and very

popular with visitors, and its perfect stem makes it very desirable for a cut flower.

Most growers call the past a poor season, and for many old favorites it seemed so, but the real reason here was the one I give at beginning of letter. Flowers must be kept growing, as when wood hardens sustenance can not be drawn up by flowers, and they become small and deformed, and poor in color. Some varieties like MRS. WARNER seem immune. That lady still leads the list, and will for sometime yet.

SCARAMOUCHE has proved good each of its six years, and I like it best among American cactus, and it is a good cutter, and a beauty in a vase.

With very best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

W. L. W. DARNELL.

DAHLIAGRAMS

Information Important to You

HOW TO GROW EXHIBITION BLOOMS.—Producing exhibition blooms is not a mysterious art. Late planting, severe pruning and disbudding, fertilizing and irrigating, and above all, constant cultivation, assure success, where size is demanded. For such flowers the soil cannot be too rich. Spade or plough in a thick dressing of stable manure during fall, harrow, then seed to some cover crop—rye is as good as any—to keep the ground employed and assure humus for retaining of moisture and keeping soil friable during the summer heat. By the middle of May you will have a fine crop to plough or spade under, when the land may be made ready for dahlia tubers. To guarantee the finest blooms for exhibition, July 1st planting is advocated.

There is much variation in the time that professional dahlia growers set as the best time for planting. It varies from early April to late July. We are compelled to keep planting from the earliest to the latest date, and base our recommendations on a long and broad experience.

For the best crop of tubers, as soon as the ground is warm, May 10th to 15th. For best exhibition flowers July 1st. For most commercial flowers June 1st to July 15th, saving those varieties of least value for latest planting, as the tuber increase will be small. This is the method followed by other Long Island growers who ship hundreds of dozens of cut dahlias to the market each day.

PLANTING.—When ready to plant, furrows or holes should be opened to depth of six inches, the tuber laid on its side, sprout uppermost and the earth filled in. When the sprout is above the surface—if more than one, remove all but the strongest—pinch back to compel branching at ground level, guard against cutworms, and keep the ground loose with rake or cultivator. When the buds appear, remove all but the terminal bud—if that is imperfect, choose another—and cut off side shoots full length of stem with a sharp knife, leaving the lower part of the foliage to act as lungs for the plant. To produce some of the immense flowers seen in competition, this art of forcing is often carried to a point where the tubers have little value. Too much fertilizing and watering is very injurious to the tuber crop, and forced plants produce small and imperfect flowers the following season. Much experiment and study has convinced me that field-grown dahlia roots keep better, and produce more and better flowers during the season following a dry year, and we always eye with suspicion any grown under irrigation. We know that a hard keeper like Geisha keeps best when grown in sandy soil, and rain is scarce.

THE TIME.—May 1st to August 1st.

THE PLACE.—In the open air and sunshine, away from shrubs, trees, and shady places.

HOW.—In hills or drills, six inches deep, three or four feet apart each way.

Too much nitrogen in soil will produce large bushy plants with a scarcity of blooms.

For large flowers feed the plant when buds develop, and remember that FERTILIZING WHEN PLANTING FEEDS THE BUSH, not the flowers.

A PRIMER on fertilizer formulas would be of great help to most large growers, as well as to the owners of very small gardens. More often than not, the buyer has little idea of the real value in the sack he receives. It is fertilizer, and whether it is suited to the ground he will plant, or the crop grown, is seldom considered. Most fertilizer manufacturers are compelled to sell a cheap mixture, one low in potash, and high in phosphoric acid, this last ingredient being mostly acid phosphate.

Dahlias, like potatoes, require nearly four times as much potash as phosphate, and double as much potash as nitrogen. That is, a normal crop harvested from an acre of ground will rob that ground of the above proportion of fertilizing ingredients.

Most of the nitrogen can be replaced by a cover crop or manure, and though too much nitrogen will force a heavy growth of bush at the expense of tuber and flower, there must be some easily available for starting growth quickly, especially for green plants.

Potash is absolutely necessary for the starch and sugar contained in the tuber, and if absent in a great degree, the plant, though seemingly healthy and vigorous, will produce smaller and many imperfect flowers, and tubers that have neither size nor stamina. Such plants, poorly nourished, are easy prey for pests, and susceptible to fungus. Potash salts are very valuable in this one thing alone, as they strengthen the plants against the attack of fungus, and investigation has proven their value in driving away cut worms, borers, and all other pests, as they dislike its bitterness.

STAKING.—For specimen plants staking is advocated. When planting tubers, drive stake in beside tuber before covering, and when plant reaches a height of two feet, secure it to the stake, repeating operation when plants make fuller growth. This will keep the stalk from being broken by the wind and assure perfect protection.

STORING.—The best place to store dahlias is a good, cool cellar, such as will keep potatoes well, where the temperature remains fairly constant at forty to forty-five degrees, and the air is neither too damp nor too dry. Cellars with heaters and cement floors are usually too dry and the roots shrivel up. This may be prevented by lining barrels or boxes with a good, heavy thickness of paper and thus excluding the drying air.

Pack the clumps one on top of the other, each clump upside down for drainage. In the stem of the dahlia is a strong, acrid juice, which if allowed to settle back into the crown may cause the clump to rot. Turning upside down allows this juice to drain out.

If temperature and moisture conditions are right, your roots will need no further attention until spring.

DIVISION OF CLUMPS.—About a week before planting time bring the clumps into warmth and sunlight, cover lightly with moist earth, and when sprouts show, cut to single tubers with the portion of necks showing sprout. Never plant a whole clump; the results will spell failure. Each tuber with its neck and piece of crown containing at least one eye will

give the best and strongest plant possible. The size of a tuber has very little to do with the results; small tubers are as good as large ones, and better; some of the finest varieties have very small tubers.

HARD WOODED PLANTS.—If tubers are planted early in rich soil, forcing quick growth, and the season becomes hot and dry, there is cause for much disappointment. Hardened wood results, few blooms and imperfect flowers. If this is your case, be not dismayed. Cut the plant back to the ground—if the idea scares you, try two-thirds—and the new soft growth will soon burst into beauty with perfect flowers. Feed them a little, ease them of their load by disbudding, and watch the plant respond.

WATERING.—We have always produced flowers of quality in quantity without any irrigation, depending on the natural moisture alone, while conserving it by constant use of cultivator or rake. But while we contend that watering is harmful to tubers, a judicious use of the hydrant is a great help in the production of large blooms. In watering, care must be taken that it is thorough, wetting the soil deep; and if the surface is then kept well stirred to preserve the moisture applied, one will find a soaking or two enough for the driest season. **CHECKING EVAPORATION AT THE SURFACE CHECKS THE NEED OF A HOSE.**

HOW TO KEEP CUT BLOOMS OF DAHLIAS.—Freshly cut flowers will keep considerably longer, and wilted flowers, if not in too serious condition, will be entirely restored in appearance, if the following suggestions are followed: Cut blossoms in early part of the day, whenever possible. Fill receptacle with water near the boiling point, 200° is correct. Plunge the stems, but not the foliage, 6 inches into the water, let them remain until it cools, then transfer into cold water.

DIGGING FOR WINTER.—As soon as the frost cuts the tops of the dahlias, the sap recedes into the roots. Then is the best time to dig. Cut the stalks back to within three inches of the crown. In digging use a spade, and dig wide of the plant, say fifteen inches, to avoid cutting the tubers. By digging wide you take no risks. Do not pull the clumps out of the ground, but dig deep and lift the soil and tubers as you go around the plant. This enables you to get the clumps without breaking the necks. A clear, sunny day is ideal for digging dahlias, and when you have lifted the clumps allow them to stand in the sun for three hours to dry, when the tubers are ready for their permanent storing place. Exercise great care to guarantee that no injured tubers are left on clumps when packed away, as the wound may start decay that will spread, making the entire clump a loss before spring comes around again.

AN editorial in the New York Herald-Tribune mourns that few poets have known or loved the Dahlia, and that hardly a line has been written in honor or praise of its beauty. While admitting the half-truth it is well to remember that the dahlia of today is not only a thing apart from the dahlia most of our poets and essayists have known, but its glory and beauty is still practically hidden under a bushel. Scores of talented and travelled people come to The Dahlia Farm each summer to whom the flowers are newly discovered marvels, many of whom loudly doubt that so much beauty is the Dahlia. One can hardly imagine the derision in their questioning "The Dahlia?" Even Hoyt can only find one quotation, Ebenezer Elliott's "The garden glows with dahlias large and new," though he should have known Paul Verlaine's "Un Dahlia."

But though the great poets of the past missed the Dahlia's glorious inspiration, some of the moderns have come under its spell, and that charming lyric of Edith M. Thomas, "Frost

PLANTS vs TUBERS

AS to the point at which propagation by cuttings becomes an evil, a point always debatable, I will admit my inability to judge, and I prefer to leave the arguments to those interested. In England, where all orders are filled with green plants, no tubers being used except the pot roots for exportation, the demand for any variety has never reached the point at which evil may come, because each grower benches all clumps to help produce the needed green plants, a few husky cuttings made from each, and any sign of spindling of the shoots on any clump means that clump being tossed into the discard. In our country the slow sure method of the Englishman goes by the board. A one-year seedling attracts attention, the originator rushes it early to the bench, and works it till the last sickly white spear that pushes its two-inch length is stuck in the sand. Was there an evil point? There was, but where? Search me.

This man-made method of propagation has been of great service in filling the gap made by the vast waste of the modern mode of living, but as it is so alien to nature's own methods of propagation, and so much more exacting on the mother plant, it is essential that more care be used by the operator, as well as by the buyer of the plants. Nature's increase is normally by seed pod or tuber, and this super-normal increase by cuttings may give better results than nature's own method, as claimed by the advocates of green plants, but I have never found it so, and would no more believe the statement, contrary to my own experience, than if some biologist informed me that he had discovered a method of propagating life, of a far higher order, at twenty times the normal rate. Everything has a limit, and when one goes beyond that limit, trouble begins. If man, animal, or flower is weakened through overwork, or want of care, each becomes easy prey to any trouble that is waiting for a nesting place.

I do not believe that propagation by cutting causes disease, except in that it may give a number of weak plants that become easy prey to disease, and I also am sure that a certain amount of propagation by cuttings from the healthiest clumps will give better plants than can be gotten from the tubers of the poorer clumps.

But the trouble with the argument for plants is that it is based, not so much on an altruistic foundation as on a financial one. It is not so much that the grower is working for healthier, stronger plants, as that he is working for easier and quicker profit. If every grower was imbued with the desire for bettering dahlias, there would be little fear of green plants becoming a menace to the future of the greatest flower in the world.

If, instead of indiscriminate selection, each grower would propagate only those clumps starting quickly into life, and await the normal sprouting, instead of forcing the spears with a high bottom heat, there would be less kick about plants.

Every argument is governed by self interest, and experience alone gives wisdom.

Tonight," and Sara Teasdale's "Autumn," are wrapped carefully within this cover, gems for the wearing of those only who appreciate their beauty.

I have read many other references to the Dahlia in poetry and fiction, but have too poor a memory to retain either manner or place, except for "In Green Old Gardens," of Lady Currie, better known as Violet Fane, while a red dahlia always brings to my kind Clementina Wing, as Quixtus saw her entering the drawing room, with a red dahlia in her hair. To a famous rosarian who assured me that literature was the only index to a flower's worth, and the Dahlia had been ignored while the Rose had been lauded on reams of paper, I had to answer that by such judgment the Violet and Primrose were worthy rivals of his specialty, while the Sunflower and Daisy were no mean opponents, and the Orchid was, alas! in a class with the Dahlia. The Poppy, most damned weed of all Europe, also has a literature all its own, which would be greatly augmented if a small part of what is said of its "scarlet tide" by old-world farmers were fit to print.

THE DAHLIA

THOUSANDS of years before the coming of the white man to the western hemisphere, Acocotli, the weed from which all the glorious dahlias of today originate, grew wild on the tablelands of Mexico, 6,000 feet above sea level, and its fleshy tubers mayhap furnished many a meal to the legendary Toltecs, and was eagerly hunted and dug during the great famine in the reign of Atecpanecatli. Quetzalcoatl, the Toltec national hero and god, blessed the parched land with abundance of these plants, because of the serpent pillars the people raised in his honor.

When the Spanish Conquistadores opened Mexico to the scientists of the old world, Dr. Francisco Hernandez, the botanist whom Philip II dispatched in charge of a costly mission for exploration, was the first to get together data on the flora and fauna of the new world, and in "Rerum Medicarum Novae Hispaniae Thesaurus" published shortly after his death, there appeared three woodcuts of Acocotli in different forms, with lengthy descriptions.

But not till 170 years later did the plant find its way to Europe, and then Vincentes Cervantes, head of the Botanic Gardens in Mexico, sent seeds to Madrid. The Abbe Cavanilles, director of the Royal Gardens, flowered the seeds in 1790, and recognizing a genus hitherto unknown to science, named it Dahlia, in honor of Andre Dahl, the Swedish botanist. The Abbe evidently recognized three distinct species among the seedlings, for in his great work on plant descriptions, he lists them under the names of Dahlia pinnata, Dahlia rosea, and Dahlia coccinea, the first having two rows of petals, the others being singles. The new plants seemed to arouse little interest, however, for though Cavanilles had multiplied the originals through their tuber increase, no new varieties had been acquired by saving of seed, and the tubers presented to Kew Gardens by the Marchioness of Bute, wife of the English Ambassador at the court of Spain, had grown, bloomed, and perished, evidently suffering the fate of so many foreign plants crowded into small space, lacking care and funds to give them the necessary protection to establish them. Not till ten years later was the Dahlia heard of in Dresden, and in 1802 it was sent to the Jardins des Plantes in Paris, and to Mon. De Candolle at Montpellier. John Frazer, the celebrated traveller, who had established a nursery at Chelsea, flowered Dahlia coccinea in 1803. At this time Humboldt, dropping down to the Pacific from the tableland on the East, found the Dahlia growing between Areo and Patzcuaro, 6,000 feet above sea level, and on his return to Europe gave seeds to the Jardins des Plantes and to Mon. Otto of Berlin. Mon. Andre Thouin, thinking a plant from Mexico was naturally tropical in its likings, raised it in a stove, but two years later published a treatise on its culture and care, in the Annual of the Museum of Natural History. About this time, too, Professor Wildenow, of Berlin, named it Georgina, in honor of Professor Georgi, of St. Petersburg. In 1804 Lady Holland sent seeds from Madrid, which produced blooming plants in September, and according to Mr. Buonainti, in July 1806, "more than 100 plants of Dahlias were growing in the Gardens of Holland House." Mr. Sabine, Secretary of the London Horticultural Society, gives the credit to Madrid for putting the Dahlia into English, French and German gardens, and though Humboldt handed the laurel for distribution of the Dahlia to Mon. Otto, Mr. Sabine informs us that Otto had no seedlings worth while till 1809, and that Comte Lelieur, who began raising dahlias in 1808, had his first doubles in 1817. One would assume that the Dahlia early showed its disposition to sport from its original color and shape, and that many gardeners became interested in possible developments, for records seem to favor Mon. Donkelaar, in charge of the gardens at Louvain, as the winner in the race for double flowers, he having produced three as early as 1814. Mon. Otto had acquired six varieties with double flowers by 1818, and Comte Lelieur had forwarded several semi-doubles to the London Horticultural Society. Among Lelieur's 900 seedlings fully half were double or semi-double. By this time many English gardeners had concentrated effort on betterment of the flower, and Johnson, Cormack, W. Smith, Douglas and Wells had added to the galaxy of color; Van Eeden had made a collection from continental gardens, and fully a hundred varieties were growing in the Horticultural Society gardens at Chiswick.

The French, too, had made large strides in the culture of the Dahlia, headed by Soulange-Bodin, Cels, Jacquin, Souchet, etc., and in 1830 Messrs. Jacquin, of Paris, published a treatise containing the names of 454 varieties cultivated by them. In the meantime Oldaker, Young of Epsom, Miller of Bristol, T. W. Hetherington, and John Lee had produced notable varieties, and though many of the doubles were flat, and hardly conform to our present ideas of what a Dahlia should be, the workers were on their way to what we know as the show or ball-type, and in 1830 Levick showed his Commander-in-Chief at an exhibition near London. By 1832 Dahlia exhibitions became the vogue, and the Dahlia became the most popular show flower of the country, and a standard of excellence had been set that demanded the flower should be round, and the ends of the petals should be round, for the rounder the petal, the rounder the flower, and pointed petals should be avoided, being objectionable "in that they work to the flatness of the bloom, and not to be recommended."

By 1850 the show Dahlia had reached perfection of form, and Rawlings, Keynes, and Turner were already names to conjure with in the show-room. When John Edwards, president of the National Horticulture Society, showed the fancy, MRS. HANSARD, at Highgate, he gave an impetus to the type, and one reads his letter to Robert Hogg with a keen perception of his pride in his "first born."

"In 1848," he wrote, "seeing the difficulty there was in being a successful exhibitor and a successful raiser of seedlings at the same time, I determined to devote all my attention to the latter; and for this end I confined my experiments to one plant only. Having selected Yellow Standard for the purpose, I reserved the earliest fine specimen that plant produced. The bloom thus saved was indeed a real gem; in truth I think I may say I have never seen its equal. It was, moreover, early in the season, and I got my pod thus forward and the seed well ripened. I would here remark that I only saved that one pod, from which I had eleven seeds. These were sown early in the spring of 1849; and each seed produced a plant; each plant grew and flowered during the August and September of the same year, 1849; and if variety really be charming, I must indeed have been charmed, for I had good, bad, and distinct colours. One plant proved a semi-double white self; the second a Fancy, being pale yellow tipped white, with petals far too long; the third a purple self, in every way similar to a flower then new, called Samuel Girling, and which, growing near to it, formed the test of comparison. They shared the same end by being 'thrown away.' There were two yellow selfs, both with less merit than their parent, and also a yellow with mottled red edges; these, with three others of no merit, and the one now illustrated, completed the 'batch.' This last was sold for \$5 from the seedling-bed to a well-known Dahlia firm trading as 'The Metropolitan Union,' and was at the time of sale named Mrs. Hansard, in compliment to the wife of the head of the firm.

The flower was constant, and well tested, for, during the shows of 1849, over 200 flowers were staged at all the leading Dahlias in the country; and from the 7 plants under my own cultivation at Holloway, I could have cut from 20 to 30 specimens every week during the season.

In habit it is robust, with fine, bold, dark green foliage, and unlike its parent, throws its flowers on foot-stalks of sufficient length to show the flowers even when on the plants to much advantage. Its center stem and lowest side branches attain to great size and substance, indicating strength and vigour, both necessitating liberal encouragement for full development.

The blooms are large, and entirely free from coarseness, and, even when small, are fit for the choicest six. The center is most admirable, being tight, compact, symmetrical, and well elevated. Its constancy is now proverbially known.

In 1849, when being proved, First Class Certificates were awarded to it at Cremorne Gardens, Stoke Newington, Halesstead, The Royal South London, Leamington, Norwich, Shacklewell, Highgate, Grecian Saloon, and Slough. It obtained also various extra money prizes, as at Cremorne Gardens, Leamington, Norwich, Highgate, Shacklewell, and Surrey Zoological Gardens—a measure of success, I may say, full to the very brim. To all these it may be added, that in 1850, '51 and '52, no

Fancy Dahlia gave such unbounded and unanimous satisfaction to its purchasers. Nor are its claims even now lessened, for to Mrs. Hansard yet belongs the character of being the very best flower of its class—yellow tipped with white. A four years' good character is indeed a trophy of the first class as regards any flower, but of the Dahlia in particular.

This interesting account of a flower that made Dahlia history, might lead some of our modern hybridizers who list scores of new varieties each season to wonder why so much "fuss and feathers," but it is doubtful if many growers of today are either worthy of or receive the applause "Mrs. Hansard" brought John Edwards.

The vogue of the Dahlia dwindled for a while, and with the introduction of the pompon in 1857, a type that made quite an impression during the sixties, settled into a fairly even rut till the late seventies, when the cactus type, result of Vanderberg's discovery of Juarezii, came to the front.

In 1880 the first cactus was shown in England, a bright scarlet that I have been told was called "Warspite" after the famous training ship, but of which I remain doubtful. CONSTANCE and HARRY FREEMAN, whites, were the first well known varieties, but no great advance was made till J. T. West showed Beauty of Brentwood at the Crystal Palace. Stredwick, Ware, Keynes, Cannell, Cheal, and other growers at once concentrated their efforts on this type, but only in late years have any flowers been developed that have real commercial value. The larger exhibition varieties seldom had a stem that held the flowers where their beauty was apparent, and a well known Dahlia lover has said that "the cactus Dahlia is modestly conscious of its superiority," but as a reason for the drooping stem it no longer holds water, the type acquiring the modern tendencies in relation to modesty, as the finer varieties of late years, like Mrs. Margaret Stredwick, Mrs. Alfred Harvey, Silverhill Park, Councillor, boldly flaunt their glory, unveiled by foliage, and with such varieties one does not have to play hide-and-seek among the bushes, nor lift a bashful head.

Before the close of the last century, the French had produced the collarette, and in July 1904, the peony type made a permanent place for itself with dahlia lovers, and the varieties shown at Rosendaal by Mr. Hornsveld are still extensively grown.

During all this time the decorative type had been undergoing steady improvement, and had reverted, through cross hybridization, to a kinship with the cactus type that eventually fostered another class, the hybrid-cactus of today.

European gardeners deserve all the credit for improving the Dahlia till the beginning of the present century, when American growers began to show what was possible of accomplishment. Back in 1890 commercial Dahlia growers were almost unknown, Peacock, Finger, Alexander, E. Stanley Brown of The Dahlia Farm, having the field in the East to themselves, but the newer varieties caused wonderment enough to force a cult, and the flowers of the last few years have added admirers by the million, and the list of commercial growers has jumped into the thousands.

The number of differing opinions on "The Best Dahlias," "Tubers versus Plants," "Diseases: Their Causes and Cure," "How to Raise Dahlias," etc., valuable or otherwise, are conclusive proofs of the interest this greatest of all flowers has for those who love gardens and growing things. It is doubtful if any member of the floral kingdom was ever subject to so much debate, or the victim of such contention among so large a number of rival schools. But for every grower, no matter his experience nor beliefs, no matter whether he grow 20 hills or 20 acres, there is no better compendium of useful information than "A Little Book of Modern Dahlia Culture," by W. H. Waite, published by the A. T. DeLaMare Co., of New York.

Each year hundreds of new varieties flood the market place, rolling in on waves of ink, and each winter the night of forgetfulness wraps a mantle around them, and buries many forever. Professor Norton's "8,000 Dahlias in Cultivation" contains less than half the names catalogued in the past ten years, and even of these less than 10 per cent have any excuse for being, in the light of the near-perfection achieved by some of the real "Best Dahlias."

During the past season, observation and inquiry, plus attendance at exhibitions and gardens, showed that the best varieties of 1924 were still in the lead, and of the 215 new ones I tried out at The Dahlia Farm this past season, less than a dozen proved acquisitions, and only one will rank with the real BEST. The past summer caused many of the highly touted dahlias to show traits that cut heavily into their rating, and the tendency of growers to favor the all-round dahlia rather than insistence on exhibition type and size proved that a healthy development is "under weigh."

"Dahlia Ratings of 1925," the Norton publication seeking to place values on a sound basis, though showing such wide variations of judgment as to be almost farcical at times, is a move in the right direction. It is a matter of time only when the different ratings for Exhibition, Garden, Cutting will be merged, and the perfect dahlia become the aim of all propagators. At present I know of no variety worthy a perfect score, but several super-enthusiasts rated many 100, dahlias that will find it hard sledding to even keep a name in the catalogues of 1930. As a sample of values EL GRANADA at 60 low, 96 high, AMUN RA 60 low, 95 high, CITY OF PORTLAND 55 low, 90 high, are cases in point. Poor old DARLENE, murdered by overhead, and left undug in our fields years ago without regret, scores 95, and A. D. LIVONI, that nice little pink that florists accept only as a pompon and pay accordingly for, rates 100. Three growers score ISLAM PATROL 94 and over, but the crotchety habit, scarcity of bloom, and general debility under field conditions blotted out the memory of a few good but costly flowers for me, and I could not honestly rate it at more than 70 today. I have tried to imagine the state of mind or the miracle of cultivation that was excuse enough for scoring MEPHISTOPHELES, W. W. RAWSON, PATRICK O'MARA, ATTRACTION, and BEN WILSON 100 per cent dahlias. Displaying the same generosity I would have to score ELLINOR VANDERVEER and JERSEY'S BEAUTY at least 300. If one took the few perfect flowers of any of the newer and better varieties to the showroom, a score of 100 is an easy matter, but so many other factors enter into the scoring that the perfect dahlia would be a marvelous achievement. How can a variety minus a quality the perfect flower demands score 100? AMBASSADOR for instance, notoriously subject to sunburn, without an ounce of substance, and, from general opinion, easy prey to disease? At its best a fine garden variety, one could give it a perfect score for all but substance, and deducting the 15 for that missing quality, have but 85. But compare again its other characteristics with JERSEY'S BEAUTY, and it must take further reduction for each of them. I think the real trouble lies in that many growers make the mistake of scoring specific flowers rather than the variety, letting their delight at seeing a fine bloom blind them entirely to everything else having to do with the plant. Imagine SISKIYOU, with its washy color, with clenched teeth always ready to bite (I see at least 20 imperfect flowers to one good one at exhibitions or in gardens) with nothing to recommend it but grossness of size and build, scoring 98. In all charity, forgetting the plants that failed to produce one good bloom, and keeping in mind the fine flower I had coddled to exhibition standard, I squeezed the score to 86, though a still small voice greeted the umpire with "ROTTEN." Honest judgment would not give more than 70.

As a sample of the perfect score a composite dahlia could be built from the best characteristics of our finest varieties. Take the stem and substance of JERSEY'S BEAUTY or ELLINOR VANDERVEER, blend the colors of INSULINDE and SAGAMORE, graft to the beautiful foliage of SHUDOW'S LAVENDER or THE SUNRISE TRAIL, add the productivity of MRS. CARL SALBACH, and the floriferousness and constitution of MRS. I. DE VER WARNER, and we would have the FLOWER SUPREME.

Dahlias will differ greatly in color and substance because of soil and climatic conditions, but the 90 per cent dahlia is a good dahlia anywhere. It will not be as good in the dry-aired central states as where it can drink of the moist sea air, but it will be just as much better than inferior varieties there. What constitutes a good dahlia in New York applies anywhere, after due time for acclimation, and anyone that will stand bunching and 12 hours' travel and still be eagerly sought by the florist is a good dahlia. Many dahlias scored high for cutting get their rating after a short journey from garden to house, and would be a mess if bunched and sent on a 50-mile jaunt. And many flowers marketed in nicely arranged single tiers could not tell their name nor color if sent to town bunched, and 100 dozen to the crate.

Asked to name the best 10 dahlias in the country, I have no hesitation in shouting my list from the housetops, and can score them from planting to division of clumps the following spring in proof of my choice. MRS. I. DE VER WARNER, JERSEY'S BEAUTY, ELLINOR VANDERVEER, (these 3 are bracketed and you take your choice for first place), OCONEE, SAGAMORE, ROSA NELL, HALVELLA, MRS. CARL SALBACH, JACQUELINE DARNELL, and SHUDOW'S LAVENDER. The fact that there is a little too much sameness of color is because I know no red nor white that will score 87 here. ROBERT TREAT, GIANT RUBY, HIS MAJESTY, RED ROVER, and many other fine reds fall down

somewhere below the figure for any of the above, and our best red flowers for market are CLEMENTINA WING and PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA. Of whites we try scores each year, and with all due regard for flowers like THE MONARCH, LAURA WEBER, WHITE SISTER, POLAR SNOW and ELIZA CLARKE BULL. I still swear by W. E. ESTES, and stick to JEAN KERR and WHITE COLOSSE for market, though my own particular pets in the whites are WORLD'S BEST WHITE—I love the old ivory heart of it—and ROBERT LAURIE BLACK. And if results in an economic way meant nothing to me, and my garden was small and just my own, there are two flowers I would have if I could have but two, neither one being in my list, and those two are Captain John R. Howell's CAPTAIN JOHN, and JEAN ROOSEVELT. The first is the richest gold ever produced, a full, deep flower, and is not among my ten best only because the large, thick, rather loose petals bruise on a long journey.

My objective in giving a cup each year to the best keeping variety judged on the last day of the A. D. S. Show in New York, was the knowledge to be gained concerning the ideal florist dahlias. Under the terms of gift entries were to be judged on both first and last days of exhibition, the purpose being to handicap those small varieties of an earlier day that fall below the standard now set. Through some mistake the manner of judging was changed at the 1925 show, and SUPT. AMRHYN, a small but very pretty pink hybrid show dahlia was adjudged best. Under the system of judging used, no fault could be found with the decision, but the outcome was no help to the purpose for which I gave the cup. The winning vase certainly looked freshest and best of the entries, but less superficial observation showed that variety the least fitted to win under my demands. After the award was placed I tried to make plain what it was I desired. Not only looks are required, but substance. To show the judge what was plain to my eye, I tapped the stem of the tallest flower with my forefinger, and it instantly shed half its petals. Not one flower in the vase was fit to carry a block, though the freshness of color proved remarkable. Mr. Grienberg's entry and

the vase of JERSEY'S BEAUTY were still in condition to ship, and I grasped the petals of both entries in my hand, shook them viciously, and not a petal fell. Both varieties have what the Prize and the market demands. The JERSEY'S BEAUTY would have won, had the exhibitor not cut one hard-wooded bloom that was so wilted and so prominent that it spoiled the whole vase.

Regarding seedlings, we all suffer from the parental attitude to one's own offspring. A very small percentage of the new varieties listed each season really deserve a name, though all of them find admirers enough to blind the originator to the real value of his "marvels." I still plant a large plot with extra choice seedlings each year, and though visitors rave over "that glorious beauty" and "that lovely wonder," I have not been lucky enough to find one worth keeping during the past two seasons, and many that seemed world-beaters in the first three years of their lives I have discarded before the time for christening and cataloguing arrived. Today, with size the first and only demand of so many growers, many of the newer listings have the defects of that one virtue, and all faults are ignored if the "cabbage" has a 36-inch periphery. However, many a good dahlia is "born to blush unseen" and has passed unknown, because it lacked girth, and I too have condemned dahlias that were perfection to other eyes. To attempt standardizing a flower is like trying to standardize taste. The single and paeony-flowered variety that is valueless to me may have a great appeal to other garden lovers. Taste is an individual characteristic, and a variety may carry an appeal to another grower, whose eye discerns a beauty I may overlook, but because of the evil regard for each individual taste might bring, it is essential that some standard be sought, and the right one is that where beauty and economy meet. The future of the dahlia is in the hands of the public through the florist rather than the garden, and to hold its place the standard set by JERSEY'S BEAUTY must be the aim of every grower, and he who clutters the market with junk, from the commercial point of view, delays the supreme hour of the most glorious of all flowers.

Cactus Dahlias

THIS type of dahlia came about through the efforts of European—especially English—gardeners to produce a more loose artistic flower, to spur the waning interest of a public "fed up" on the stiff show and the small single. Previous to the introduction of the Cactus type, the dahlias that grew in spite of care—rather than because of it—in our grandmother's gardens, were as round, hard, stiff and ungraceful as a green apple, their sole virtues being a touch of color, and unequal sturdiness. The first Cactus dahlia named Juarez, in honor of President Juarez of Mexico, and called a cactus because of its resemblance in color to the red cactus of the plains, was found in Juxphaor, Mexico, in 1872 by J. T. Vanderberg, and sent by him to an English florist, who exhibited it in England in 1882. Its graceful form and brilliant color at once captured the fancy of flower lovers, and today there is no flower more popular. The progeny of Dahlia Juarezi not only "broke" into various colors, but different shapes as well. It was by selecting the most desirable of these,

and reselecting the finest from each succeeding generation of plants, that the Cactus Dahlia has arrived at its present state of perfection. Today this variety is divided into two groups; the fluted and Hybrid types, classified by the American Dahlia Society as follows:

a. True, fluted type. Flowers fully double; floral rays (petals) long, narrow, incurved or twisted, with sharp, divided, or fluted points and with revolute (rolled back) margins, forming, in the outer florets, a more or less perfect tube for more than half the length of the ray.

b. Hybrid cactus or semi-cactus type: Flowers fully double; floral rays short as compared with previous type, broad, flat, recurved or twisted, not sharply pointed except when tips are divided (staghorn), margins only slightly revolute, and tubes of outer florets, if any, less than half the length of the ray.

ALEX KENNEDY. Deep crimson, fine stems	1.00
A. R. PERRY. A large incurved flower of old rose tipped gold, on good stem	1.00
CORONIA. Clear yellow, slightly incurved and very large	1.00
CRYSTAL. Incurved tubular petals of silvery pink around an ivory center. A splendid flower. Large . . . . .	.75
CURLEW. Old rose color, massive full flowers, with very long florets incurving over center. Splendid shape	1.00
DAISY STAPLES. Mauve pink . . . . .	.25
F. W. FELLOWS. This variety produces large blooms with narrow florets, flower stems wiry, color bright orange scarlet. Very free, and one of the best. . . . .	.50

GUARDIAN. Crimson scarlet, a striking flower on fine stem	1.00
GWENDOLYN TUCKER. Pale flesh color . . . . .	.50
HERBERT RABY. A long, incurving petaled exhibition cactus of wine crimson . . . . .	.50
HOMER. Incurved, with good stems, nearly black. . . . .	.75
MARATHON. A brilliant French purple, shading lighter on some of the petals . . . . .	.50
MARGUERITE BOUCHON. Deep pink with white center . . . . .	.75
MELODY. One of the most distinct, color being clear yellow for half the length of florets, balance pure white . . . . .	.50

MEVROUW BALLEGO. A showy flower of brilliant garnet, the broad fluted petals shaded scarlet.....	.50
MRS. ALFRED HARVEY. Light salmon-pink, deepening at base of petals. Strong stems, and best English cactus known	2.00
MRS. CHARLES COOPER. An immense flower of creamy salmon. Petals narrow and straight.....	1.00
MRS. MARGARET STREDWICK. New English cactus of soft pink, deeper at tips and base. Incurved, large and vigorous	1.50
NORMAN. Orange scarlet, good stem and large.....	.75
PIERROT. The color is deep amber, each petal boldly tipped white. Unique flower and if disbudded, huge .....	.75
PENNANT. Beautiful clear coral, finely incurved, on strong stem	1.00

PICOTEE. Crimson carmine with silvery white reverse	.50
RHEINISCHER FROHSINN. This is a large incurving flower white at base, changing to carmine rose....	.75
SILVERHILL PARK. A grand white, massive in size, and beautifully incurved	2.00
SWEETBRIAR. An exquisite shade of pink. Always a mass of flowers, standing well above the foliage..	.50
VICAR OF WASPERTON. Base of petals a beautiful pink with overlay of yellow, edging off to a delicate cameo pink, center a charming primrose yellow. Ideal for exhibition purposes, the florets long, tightly quilled, and beautifully incurved	1.50
VULCAN. A remarkably full and large English flower. Color deep maroon, good stem	1.00

Hybrid Cactus

AMBASSADOR. Soft yellow-buff, shaded salmon pink. Splendid flower on good stem	3.00
AMBER GLOW. Bright yellow, deepening to orange at center. Unbeatable for exhibition .....	.75
ATTRACTION. Large, full flower, of a clear lilac-rose. The habit is perfect, with long strong stems holding the bloom stiff and upright	1.00
BALLET GIRL. A very attractive dahlia, orange and white. Very free blooming, flowers large	1.00
BIANCA. Beautiful rose-lilac with white shading, held perfectly erect on strong, stiff stem. Free flowering .....	.50
CALIFORNIA ENCHANTRESS. A large bloom of great substance and a delightful shade of pale pink. Hybrid cactus are greatly in demand because of their size and erect stems. This has both these admirable qualities, combined with freedom in flowering....	1.00
CID —A medium-sized flower of loose formation, and flaming orange in color. Stem good, but open centered with us	2.50
CIGARETTE. Cream white, tipped, splashed or suffused burnt orange. Fine stem and wonderful keeper...	2.00
CINDERELLA. A large uncurving flower of fawn pink with tan center, on good stem	5.00
COLOSSAL PEACE. A massive cactus dahlia of the Kalif form and size, often measuring eight inches across; color creamy white, shading violet rose with lighter tips	1.00
DADDY BUTLER. Rosy carmine, with lighter reverse	3.00
DOROTHY DURNBAUGH. A most attractive shade of deep rich pink, of fine form and habit, with strong stems, that hold up well; one of the best cactus dahlias	1.00
EDITH SLOCOMBE. A very attractive flower of rich garnet, twisting and curling to show darker reverse. Fine flower on wiry stem	1.00
EL GRANADA. A beautiful orange, the curling petals showing cream reverse. Good stem	10.00
ELSIE OLIVER. A lovely pastel in pink and cream, of good size on fine stem	2.00
ESTHER R. HOLMES. Pink lavender, profuse bloomer, and fine cutter	2.00
ETENDARD DE LYON. A flower more than six inches in diameter and four inches deep, but without stiffness or formality. Color a rich Royal Purple with a brilliant suffusion difficult to describe .....	.75
FRANCIS LOBDELL. One of the best bedding varieties, as bush is low, and flowers profuse. White center surrounded by mallow pink, shading white at tips. Of good form and cane-like stem	1.50
GEORGE WALTERS. The most wonderful Garden Dahlia ever offered. Of exquisite coloring, being a bright salmon-pink, artistically suffused with old gold .....	.75
GLADYS BATES. An American cactus of tan, the incurved petals showing the rose reverse. Profuse, on strong stems, and of fine form	1.50
GLADYS SHERWOOD. A white hybrid cactus of fine form, held erect on good stem. The flowers are often 7 to 8 inches in diameter. A profuse bloomer	1.00

GOLDEN WEST. One of the very best of its type. Has extra long stems, graceful and wiry. Old gold	.50
ISLAM PATROL. A very showy and distinct variety, of dark scarlet, tipped and flushed with gold	3.50
JEAN CHAZOT. Golden bronze, suffused nasturtium red. One of the best importations in years	1.00
JONKHEER G. F. VAN TETS. White chrysanthemum-like bloom, of good size and stem. Early and free	1.50
KOH-I-NOOR. Fine dark maroon of immense size on stiff cane-like stem	5.00
KALIF. A monster cactus of perfect form. Color is a rich, pure scarlet, borne on long, stiff stems .....	.75
LA FAVORITA. A splendid novelty, shading from a dark reddish salmon in the center to salmon pink at the twisted points. Perfect form; strong, long stem	.75
LADY HELEN. A very beautiful flower, popular everywhere; in color a mixture of carmine rose and cream, with cream tips. Splendid stems and large	1.50
MARIPOSA. Violet pink, deeper in center. This is an	
MacGREGOR. A beautiful dahlia of nopal red, on long strong stem of great depth and substance, and has few peers for exhibition or cutting	3.00
MINAMOTO. A velvety scarlet of good size. Good stem	1.00
MINNIE MARDEN. A good cut flower of watermelon pink on good stem	2.00
MRS. EDNA SPENCER. A flower of a delicate and exquisite shade of orchid pink. Very beautiful and of good formation and stems. A lasting cut flower	.75
MRS. R. LOHRMAN. A pure golden yellow with a full center and immense size	1.00
MRS. ETHEL F. T. SMITH. Creamy white shading to sulphur center. Very large on good stems	1.00
NEW MOON. Canary yellow sometimes tipped white	1.00
NIBELUNGENHORT. Large broad petaled, more or less twisted, a beautiful shade of old rose, tinged golden apricot. Very free .....	.75
PAPILLON. A fine exhibition variety of old rose on good stem. Early and constant	2.50
PARADISE. Creamy old rose, suffused gold. A large deep flower of a new coloring, on very good stem..	3.50
RED CROSS. A beautiful combination of red and yellow. It is a very strong grower, and flowers freely on long, strong stems	1.00
RISING BEAUTY. A brilliant carmine, suffused scarlet, tipped golden yellow. Large flower and stems good	1.50
SCARAMOUCHE. This is a very fine American cactus on a long, strong stem, and is a good cutter and keeper. We have never seen an open center in the five years we have had it. The general effect is Indian Red, but the color is a very deep rose; shading a trifle lighter at tips	2.00
SHIRLEY BROWN. Old gold and apricot. A large deep flower on long, wiry stem	1.50
SISKIYOU. Mauve pink of immense size on strong stem	7.50
SULPHUREA. Clear sulphur yellow. A fine cutter..	.75
SUNKISS. Yellow, shading out to fawn. Good stem..	2.00
TALISMAN. A large variety of brownish red, shaded buff on reverse and tips. Petals long and uncurved, making a striking picture	2.50
TOM LUNDY. One of the largest Hybrid Cactus Dahlias grown. Of a dark velvety red, on long, stiff stems	1.00
WINTERTIME. A full deep white on good stem	2.50

Decorative Dahlias

THE Decorative Dahlia is the pride of all Dahlias, standing out pre-eminently. In garden the plants are strong, sturdy, vigorous growers, with heavy, dark green foliage, and a remarkable constitution. The blossoms are produced in great profusion, which is exceptional for a type of giant-flowering Dahlias. For cut-flower purposes they are unsurpassed, having long, straight stems of wiry stiffness, and carry their flowers in a pleasing manner; then principally their lasting qualities when cut—they are unequalled, lasting longer than any of the other

types. As an exhibition flower the Decorative Dahlia is the most gigantic of all Dahlia blossoms, having beauty, substance, quality—all essential characteristics of a true "Model of Perfection." As a decorative flower they are first in every respect; being graceful, adapted to designs, and most artistic.

The blossoms of the Decorative Dahlias are large, flat, but beautiful in shape, and full to the center; the petals are somewhat irregularly situated, long, broad, flat and nearly straight.

AGINCOURT. A very large decorative of deepest velvety purple bronze, brightened on outer petals with purple garnet. A robust grower with perfect stem. In our opinion the best of all the dark varieties to date	2.50
AIBONITA. Lavender pink shaded white, with rich golden center. Of great depth, on medium stiff stem	1.50
AMUN RA. "The Sun God," and worth the name. Copper and burnt orange, deepening in center to reddish brown, the immense flowers are borne on wonderful stems above a plant second to none in vigor. Fine for cutting, garden or exhibition.....	1.50
ARROW OF GOLD. Pure gold, deepening in center, and shading to apricot and amber at outer petals. Large, deep blooms on good stems	2.50
BASHFUL GIANT. Golden apricot. One of Judge Marean's largest	1.50
BEATRICE SLOCOMBE. An attractive flower of warm red, edged old gold, shaded rose pink. Good stems	1.00
E. T. BEDFORD. Purple, shading lighter. A profuse bloomer of very large flowers	2.00
BEN WILSON. Reddish orange, tipped gold. Good	1.00
BLACK JACK. A rich maroon black. Tall grower of a brilliant crimson, on fine stem	3.00
BONNIE BRAE. Cream, shaded blush-pink; the flowers are of true decorative form and large in size, but much too heavy for the stem	1.00
BOSTON WHITE. A full, deep white on good stem. One of the best	2.00
BRUSHWOOD BOY. This magnificent bi-colored dahlia is the finest dahlia of its type we have ever grown. Mars yellow striped, Indian red. Very tall, stem good	10.00
CARMENCITA. Clear yellow, distinctly penciled with	
CATHERINE WILCOX. White, tipped cerise	1.50
bright scarlet. Beautiful flower of immense size..	1.00
CHALLENGE. A fine cut flower of deep yellow, suffused crimson. Good stem and substance .....	.50
CHAMPAGNE. A wonderful flower of dull gold, chamois, and a tinge of the dawn. A magnificent variety	3.50
CHARITY SLOCOMBE. Glistening pure white of good size and depth, on long, strong stem	3.00
CHARM. A glorious flower of golden ochre shading to a rich amber at tips. Large, on stout stem....	1.00
CLARA FINGER. A fine exhibition bloom of mars yellow, edged pinkish buff. Fine for those who demand size	2.00
CLEMENTINE WING. The best red cut flower in the world. Bright crimson, on very long, strong stem .....	.50
CONSTANCY. Mrs. Seal lists this as "one of her most dependable varieties. Color, lively shade of deep, glowing pink. Large, on long, strong stems"....	2.50
DAKOTA. A flaming bronze beauty on strong stem..	.75
DOLLY VARDEN. A medium sized flower of cameo pink with lighter center; early and free, stem good, and valuable as a cut flower variety	3.00
DON WILLIAMS. Soft lavender pink, tipped white, on strong stem	3.50
DOROTHY LONG. A very brilliant golden amber, suffused salmon. A large flower on strong stem, that is as attractive as any dahlia we know	1.50
DOROTHY ROBBINS. Queen of all autumn shaded dahlias. Buff, ochre, suffused orange red. Unbeatable	1.00
DR. TEVIS. A beautiful shade of soft salmon rose, suffused with old gold shading to a golden apricot center. One of the largest grown; the immense flowers being held erect on fine, long, vigorous stems .....	.50
ELEANOR MARTIN. A large and very beautiful all-round variety of mulberry suffused gold, on perfect stem. A glorious dahlia	5.00
EARLE WILLIAMS. Crimson and white. Fine	2.00
EDITH WOOSTER. A blending of golden yellow and sunset red which cannot be accurately described, but suggests the tea rose. Large flowers on erect stems	1.50
EL DORADO. An immense bloom of pure gold with deeper center. Exceptionally fine	5.00
ELLINOR VANDERVEER. An exquisite dahlia of great size and depth on the very best of stems. Early and profuse of bloom, and one that we recommend as among the three best dahlias of all time. Mrs. Jessie Seal, the originator, describes the color as a "rich, glowing satiny rose-pink"	10.00
FAITH GARIBALDI. This introduction of the Bessie Boston Dahlia Gardens is described as an "immense, deep rose decorative of great substance and perfect formation"	7.50
FAITH SLOCOMBE. A splendid variety of the all-round dahlia. Pure apricot, shaded salmon rose, early and free, large, on good stem, and one we recommend with delight	3.00
FLANDERS FIELDS. This is a mammoth decorative of a beautiful coloring, lemon yellow shading through sulphury white to the light violet tips. There is a blending of violet mauve, and the edges are penciled with bishop's violet	10.00
FLORENCE FINGER. A wonderful lavender-pink on perfect stem. The ideal cut flower	1.00
GAY MORNING. A fine Decorative of salmon buff, large and good stem	5.00
GIANT RUBY. A brilliant red of great size and depth, on good stem. Hard to beat in reds	2.50
GLORIOUS BETTY. A beautifully formed flower of velvety crimson, edged gold, with a gold reverse, on a perfect stem, that holds the flower high above the attractive foliage. A fine flower for cutting....	7.50
GLORY OF NEW HAVEN. Color is a beautiful shade of pinkish mauve. Plants are tall, robust growers and produce large blooms on long, strong stems..	1.00
HALVELLA. A beautiful bloom of rose pink held erect on a fine stem. Excellent for exhibition and cutting	2.50
HAZEL WELTON. A well formed flower of henna, powdered with silver, carried above foliage on a fine stem	1.50
HERCULES. A handsome quilled flower of large size. Deep yellow with tangerine reverse, showing in a two-tone blend	2.00
HORTULANUS FIET. Holland's best dahlia. The coloring of this variety is wonderful—salmon exquisitely blending to yellow at the center	1.00
INSULINDE. Colossal flowers of a rich golden orange color. Form of flower everything that could be desired. Admirable for cutting and exhibition. One of the most artistic yet produced	1.50
JANE SELBY. Delicate mauve pink of great size and true decorative formation. Wonderful stems, long and stiff; unusually fine for cutting and exhibiting	1.00



JEAN ROOSEVELT. The largest decorative I have ever grown. Amber buff center shading through salmon pink to light pink, with light rose reverse. A perfect flower of great depth on strong stem	10.00
JERSEY'S BEAUTY. Fine pink on very long stiff stem. One of the sensations of last year's shows	5.00
JUDGE ALTON B. PARKER. Golden buff and very large, on good stem	1.50
JUDGE MAREAN. A well-known exhibition variety; it is a beautiful combination of colors, salmon pink, orange and gold. A fine grower and free bloomer	1.00
JUNIOR. A well formed flower of deep lavender with a pink tone. This one, enormous under ordinary cultivation, can easily be forced to win "largest in show" prize	2.00
JACQUELINE DARNELL. Hybrid Decorative of wonderful charm, at base deep buttercup yellow, all petals shaded and tipped rose. Very large flower on long stem and splendid keeper when cut	10.00
JEANNETTE SELINGER. A very large, deep flower of glowing maroon, twisting and showing a lighter reverse. The blooms are often 10 inches across, and the rich coloring of the flower towering on long stiff stems well above beautiful foliage adds glory to any garden. Scored 87 at Storrs	5.00
J. W. DAVIES. Deep cerise at center, shading to lighter tint that blends the whole into a glory of color. Large, on fine stems, and a profuse bloomer.	3.00
KITTY DUNLAP. An excellent cutter of the American Beauty Rose in color, on fine stem	2.00
LADDIE. Soft yellow, deepening to orange. Large and profuse with good stems	1.00
LA MASCOTTE. A new color and type of medium size on fair stem. Silvery pink with reddish violet reverse. Odd and pleasing	1.00
LE GRAND MANITOU. Enormous bloom, white, striped and blotched with deep purple . . . . .	.50
LE GROS BETE. A dark cerise of immense size	2.50
LE TOREADOR. A glowing crimson on good stem.	1.50
LIBERTY BOND. A large flower of bronze buff, shaded salmon. A good variety	1.00
LOUISE PARSONS. A pure gold beauty on a wonderful stem. This glorious flower has few equals in the dahlia world, as the cut flowers are in great demand	1.50
MARGARET YARDLEY. An unusual coloring. The main body a deep bluish lilac flamed with rich pansy violet. The reverse, and outer row of petals lightened with lilac white. The center petals densely formed, the main petals partly fluted, and the large flower is held erect on strong stem	3.50
MARTHA. A golden yellow, flushed bronze, on full stem. Very large. Won for us best YELLOW two years at N. Y. Show of A. D. S.	3.00
MEPHISTOPHELES. The flowers, which are very large and of fine form, are a vivid scarlet	2.00
MILDRED BURGESS. A deep garnet, tipped white, and standing on stiff stem above graceful foliage. Is sure to draw expressions of admiration from every visitor	5.00
MILLIONAIRE. The color of this variety is a dainty lavender with a pink sheen overcast and shading to white in the center. The flower is immense in size . . . . .	.75
MRS. ATHERTON. A robust grower with mammoth bloom on strong stem, it is peer of the best in yellows	1.00
MRS. CARL SALBACH. A large flower of marsh-mallow pink, lighter in the center, every petal outlined with a deep mauve. The stems are very long and strong, holding the blossom rigidly erect, and I believe it one of the very best cutting varieties produced in America	1.00
MR. C. H. DRESSELHUYS. Soft rose pink diffused white on splendid stem. The best cutter of its color	1.00
MRS. HUBER. A bright lemon yellow, evenly tipped white, at its best under artificial light	2.50
MRS. I. DE VER WARNER. Everyone who has seen it growing pronounced it the acme of perfection. In color it is a deep mauve pink, some might describe it as a cattleya color. Splendid for exhibition and garden and as a cut flower variety	1.50
MRS. JOHN T. SCHEEPERS. Clear, canary, shading to pink on outer petals. A beautiful dahlia	2.00
MRS. J. R. HOWELL. An immense lilac Decorative with beautiful shadings. Magnificent variety.	1.50
MRS. T. B. ACKERSON. Bright carmine tipped and shaded with whitish pearl; fine cut flower . . . . .	.50
MYRA VALENTINE. A wonderful golden bronze flower on remarkable stem. Absolutely best of its color	3.00
NOBILIS. A sport of, and far superior to EARLE WILLIAMS. More white than red	1.00
OCONEE. This wonderful flower would need a page for a proper description, as its color combination is hard to describe. Amaranth and rose, with autumn shades blended make it a glory of coloring, and size and stem make this the perfect dahlia	5.00
PATRICK O'MARA. An unusually soft and pleasing shade of orange buff, slightly tinged with rose. One of the most lasting cut flower dahlias	1.00
PAUL MICHAEL. An exhibition variety of bright apricot, shaded bronze. Good stem, very large	1.00
PENATAQUIT. The finest autumn colored flower to date. A deep reddish bronze of large size on a wonderful stem	2.00
PERFECT BEAUTY. Bright scarlet, tipped white. Large and attractive. Exhibition variety	1.00
POLAR BEAR. Snow white, of fine form, and good keeper when cut	1.00
POLARIS. Pure white decorative dahlia, flowers of immense size and perfect form, held well above the foliage on strong stems; habit is dwarf, strong and vigorous; a flower with every good quality.	1.00
PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA. Red decorative of good form and keeping qualities. Flowers freely on long stems well above the foliage. One of the best . . . . .	.50
PRIDE OF WAYNE. Fine exhibition dahlia of brilliant French purple, on good stem	2.50
PRINCESS PAT. A magnificent decorative of a glorious shade of old rose. Large flowers, perfectly formed growing well above the foliage on long erect stems . . . . .	.75
PROXIE. An immense velvety crimson on splendid stem. A really fine red	1.00
REALIZATION. A fine flower variety of canary yellow on perfect stem. Early and free	1.00
RED PLANET. Very large, broad petaled flower of cerise, touched with gold	2.00
ROBERT LAURIE BLACK. This glorious ivory white variety is really a hybrid show, a flower of great depth, that when fully open almost becomes a ball	2.50
ROBERT TREAT. This immense flower of a color we term American Beauty rose, is one of the largest we grow, and in spite of the size and depth is held well aloft on good strong stem	5.00
ROOKWOOD. A cerise rose, fine formation, good stem	4.00
ROSA NELL. The color is a clear bright rose, the flowers are large and I consider it the best shaped Decorative Dahlia I have seen, coming perfectly full and double until frost; good stems and habit; color is a rare one in dahlias, and attracts immediate attention	1.00
SAMADH. A very massive dahlia on a strong stem. Body of flower is a purple garnet, deepened with purple brown, the high center tinted with vinous mauve, and many petals show a reverse of same color, making an effective contrast. A very robust grower	5.00
SAN MATEO. A deep yellow heavily splashed scarlet of great substance, fine formation and good stems	1.50
SEQUOIA GIGANTEA. An immense yellow decorative. A very prolific bloomer with good stem.	1.00
SHANNON. A good cut flower of golden chamois. Large and full, on strong stem	2.00
SHELIKOFF. Deep garnet. A very full flower	1.00
SHOWER OF GOLD. Brilliant yellow, deepening to soft apricot towards the center, slightly fluted petals. Large strong stems and a color in demand	1.00
SHUDOW'S LAVENDER. Silvery lavender, shading to white in center. The long stem carries the flower well above beautiful foliage	3.00
STUNNER. A deep substantial flower of large size. Color a rich clear canary yellow	1.00
SUSAN G. TEVIS. A rich lilac, but of a different shade to any we know. Very floriferous and fine stem.	3.00
SYLVIA DICKEY. Large flowers of phlox pink on perfect stems. A fine cut flower variety	1.00
THE EMPEROR. A large flower, good stem, bright maroon. One of Judge Marean's best	2.00
THE GRIZZLY. A giant beauty, the immense velvety maroon blooms are of finest formation, with reflexed petals. Extra long strong stems	1.00

THE MONARCH. This fine white is very large and always full centered here, and is one of the few whites we would dare recommend for all purposes. Held high on fine strong stems, it attracts admiration from all	4.00
THEODORE VAIL. A very large bloom of old gold shading to a rich apricot, extra long stems .....	.75
THE SUNRISE TRAIL. A glorious flower of large size on perfect stem. The main coloring is scarlet, suffused geranium lake, edged and tipped with cadmium yellow. The center, high and finely formed, looks like a nugget of gold, and the whole flower gives a dazzling effect. Stock limited	10.00
TOMMY ATKINS. Flaming scarlet. A brilliant variety	3.00

TUSITALA. Old rose, flushed and tipped with rosy salmon. Good stem and splendid cut flower	2.50
VENUS. Creamy white, suffused lavender. Good cutter	1.00
WILLIAM SLOCOMBE. Well formed flower of canary yellow on good stem	1.50
WIZARD OF OZ. Large amber pink flowers on good stem	3.00
WONDER. An immense flower of golden bronze, tinted salmon. Fine for exhibition, cutting or garden	4.00
WORLD'S BEST WHITE. The largest of the white varieties. Cream white with ivory center. Good stems	3.00

Paeoni Flowered Dahlias

PPROMPTED by the great popularity of the Cactus Dahlia, so different from the stiff, ball-shaped Dahlias, but only fitted for exhibition, European hybridizers went after a type suitable for both garden and cut-flower purposes.

By crossing the Cactus with the Single, and vice versa, they developed this new type now popular all over the world. These long stemmed semi-double Dahlias were grown in Holland, and sold as Half-double Giant Dahlias. Mr. H. Hornsveld, an Orchid specialist of Baarn, Holland, immediately saw their possibilities and collected the largest and most promising specimens. The great development and present value of the Peony-flowered type is due to him. After seven years of cross-hybridizing and developing (July, 1904), he was able to show the results at the meeting of the Dutch Horticultural Society at Rosendaal, where he exhibited four varieties, Queen Wilhelmina, Duke Henry, Baron G. de Grancy and Glory of

Baarn. Here he received a first-class certificate of Merit, and the admiration and encouragement of growers and lovers of beauty. After Dusseldorf came Paris, Amsterdam, London.

The rich, golden yellow center, loosely arranged petals, large and fluffy, gives them a certain fascination and artistic appearance that none of the other types possess. They are favorite garden and cut-flower dahlias, producing abundantly and continuously. Stems are long and graceful, and their b'ossoms are remarkably effective in bouquets.

Flowers are semi-double, having two, three or more rows of broad, flat, loosely arranged rays, or petals, surrounding an open center, which is usually a conspicuous golden yellow. The inner floral rays being usually curled or twisted, the outer rays either flat, or more or less irregular. Sometimes the rays are pointed, occasionally they curl and twist over the center, causing them to resemble the Chinese Peony, hence the name.

BETTY DARNELL. Canary, brightened with cadmium-lemon, with outer petals of gamboge yellow. This is the finest cutting peony we grow, as stem is exceptionally long and strong, and the flower has wonderful keeping qualities	4.00
CAMILLE FRACHON. Analine red, deepening to rich garnet, overlaid with silvery sheen. A gorgeous flower of good size, very effective in garden ....	.50
CITY OF PORTLAND. A clear, deep yellow of immense size. A very popular flower	1.00
CREATION. Cherry red and golden bronze peony..	1.00
DEVOTION. A striking old gold, shaded rose. A beauty	1.00
DREAMLIGHT. A beautiful flower of pale old rose pink. Large and good stem	1.50
DRUM MAJOR. An immense peony of brilliant fire, tipped and marked with yellow, and lemon yellow center	1.00
EDITH CAVELL. An enormous flower of old gold shaded to reddish bronze. One of the best we grow	1.50
EDYTH MINER. Deep rosy magenta, on ox-blood base, forming a rich halo around a massive chrome yellow center. Long, strong stem	1.00

FRAU GEHEIMRAT SCHEIFF. One of the grandest of its color, large flower set on a long stiff stem. Very floriferous, carmine salmon	1.00
GEISHA. Orange red with yellow center. Great flower	1.00
GOLIATH. The color is an intense rich scarlet of twisted form. Blooms, large, full, and erect.....	.75
MRS. JOHN BRAY. A fancy peony with white ground speckled and striped with maroon. Good stem....	1.00
MRS. JOHN L. EMERSON. Large, well formed flowers of bright red, effectively splashed and tipped gold	1.00
MRS. JACK GREEN. Flowers of fine formation; full and deep; of large size. A rich scarlet in color....	1.00
MRS. JESSIE L. SEAL. The large flowers are a magnificent old rose held high above the foliage on long stems. An excellent cut flower and profuse bloomer	1.00
PEARL RUGGLES. Carmine rose suffused pink, lighter at tips, with white at base. A very artistic dahlia..	1.50
UNCLE SAM. Orange buff, shading to salmon. Very large, on good stem	2.50
U. S. A. A lovely flower of vivid orange, on fair stem, Of good formation often being decorative in type	1.00
WHITE CLOUD. Pure white on good stem .....	.50

FICTION A LA MODE

A German novel is a book in which two people want each other in the first chapter, but do not get each other until the last chapter.

A French novel is a book in which two people get each other right in the first chapter, and from then on to the last chapter don't want each other any more.

An American novel is a book in which two people want each other at the start, get each other, and then want each other clear through to the end.

A Russian novel, however, is one in which two people neither want each other nor get each other, and about this 450 profoundly melancholy pages are written.

JUGEND-MUNICH.

Show Dahlias

THIS class is in all probability the oldest flower form of the dahlia and is therefore more universally known. They are valuable for massing or making especial effect in borders. The advancement in this class has been very pronounced, giving greater depth of bloom on increased length of stem. They make a fine showy room decoration, and will keep fresh longer and stand more handling than any of the classes.

Flowers globular or ball shaped, rather than broad or flat, full to the center, showing regular spiral arrangement of florets with floral rays or petals more or less quilled or with their

A. D. LIVONI. Sea shell pink, good cutter . . . . .	.25
CLARA SEATON. An enormous flower of rich golden bronze or apricot. Very attractive and beautiful. .	.50
DREER'S WHITE. An excellent dahlia for garden effect. Plants strong and vigorous. Color a pure white . . . . .	.25
DREER'S YELLOW. A beautiful dahlia, stems long and straight. The flowers form a sulphur ball. . . . .	.25
FLORENCE. A beautiful pink, splendid stem	1.00
GENERAL MILES. Light violet striped and splashed with purplish magenta. The best variegated Show Dahlia in existence	1.00
GOLD MEDAL. Canary yellow, striped and flaked red .	.50
GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY. Burnt orange lightening out to buttercup yellow	1.00

margins involute (rolled forward or inward) and rounded tip. (Dahlias of this type with flowers spotted, variegated, or parti-colored, were formerly classed as Fancy; a group no longer recognized).

The Hybrid Show is a type of Dahlia having characteristic of both the Decorative and Show types. The flowers are fully double, broadly hemispherical to flatly globular in form, loosely built so spiral arrangement of florets is not immediately evident; floral rays broad, heavy cupped or quilled, with rounded tips and involute margins.

GRAND DUCHESS MARIE. A very striking rich buff overlaid orange, reverse petals pink, stems from 12 to 18 inches in length. Good garden variety. . . .	.35
MAUDE ADAMS. White, effectively overlaid delicate pink. Undoubtedly one of the finest of the type. .	.25
MRS. J. P. SMITH. A vivid cherry blush over a rich crimson. The largest show dahlia. Introduced by us 10 years ago and still best type show in the world .	.50
MRS. WM. SLACK. Blush white, edged purple . . . . .	.50
NORTH CAROLINA. A Pomegranate purple, with pansy purple center. A fine addition to this class .	1.00
W. W. RAWSON. Pure white overlaid with amethyst blue. This wonderful combination gives it the appearance of delicate lavender . . . . .	.50
YUBAN. A fine tan, striped and speckled red	1.00

Collarette Dahlias

A BEAUTIFUL type of flower introduced by French specialists. The flowers are single, with one or more minor petals, usually of a different color, growing from the heart of larger florets, making a collar for the disk. Great

ABBE HUGONARD. Purple, petals edged white and white collar. Very large, with strong stems . . . .	.75
ACHIEVEMENT. A rich velvety maroon, collar white .	.35
CREAM CUP. Large creamy white, slightly cup-shaped. White collar. A beautiful flower . . . . .	.50
GEANT DE LYON. Enormous flower of maroon with white collar	1.00
LADY PHAYRE. Chamois suffused henna and crimson. Cream collar	1.00
MAD. SCHWARZATAL. An immense flower, gorgeous purple, each petal tipped white, and a white collar .	.75
MAURICE RIVOIRE. Red, with white collar . . . . .	.25

favorites in European gardens and exhibitions, they undoubtedly will become better known, then more extensively grown in America.

RAFAEL VELASCO. Dark purple with pure white collar . . . . .	.75
SAN MATEO STAR. Cerise edged white, white collar .	1.00
SOUV. BEL ACCUEL. Orange-red with a yellow collar. One of the largest and most beautiful. A fine flower . . . . .	.50
WM. WELSH. Cream yellow . . . . .	.50
FRANK HARRIS. A very large flower of reddish brown, on long straight stem. Very free	1.00
HERALD. Rich rose pink with white collar. Fine for cutting or exhibition . . . . .	.50
SILVER MEDAL. Beautiful crimson-maroon, each petal outlined in white, and white collar . . . . .	.50
WHITE DOVE. A beautiful pure white . . . . .	.75

If you choose dahlias in the showroom, you are sure of the color. If you choose dahlias from the field, you are sure of everything but judgment, but you get what you know you want. And if a variety appeals to you, if you love it for a grace and beauty your eye discerns, you have chosen wisely.

Taste is an individual characteristic. The giant decorative may be anathema to the lover of the graceful single or collarette. The dainty pompon will appeal to many for whom the large flower has no attraction. Because we find a variety that we bought from catalogue description does not fit our mental vision, nor suit our taste, is no reason for reviling the originator. It is only sure that his likes and ours fail to agree. No grower wastes his garden and catalogue space on a variety that does not please him. It costs as much to raise and sell a poor flower as a good one.

A good stem is the most requisite part of a dahlia. Every shade and tint, will find admirers, but every admirer of any color must have the flowers on a stem that carries it where the eye may see its beauties.

BOTH FORGETFUL

A certain young man wrote the following letter to a prominent business firm, ordering a razor:

Dear Sirs:—Please find enclosed 50c for one of your razors as advertised and oblige,

JOHN JONES.

P. S.—I forgot to enclose the 50c, but no doubt a firm of your high standing will send the razor anyway.

The firm addressed received the letter and replied as follows:

Dear Sir:—Your most valued order received the other day and will say in reply that we are sending the razor as per request, and hope that it will prove satisfactory.

P. S. We forgot to enclose the razor, but no doubt a man with your cheek will have no need of it.—The Associated Grower (Fresno).

The Pompon or Bouquet Dahlia

NAMED from the French word signifying ornament for headdress, in military parlance "tuft," because of its resemblance to the ball of wool worn on the shakos of the Voltigeurs in 1800 and adopted later by English regiments, changing into the shaving brush adorning the headgear of the French infantry of the line in 1850. The name of this variety has many variations. Stredwick insisting on PomPom, West Pompon, and one of our American growers Ponpon. This is the best all-round class for every purpose, exceedingly floriferous, unbeatable for a border because of its low growth—about 2 feet—and closely formed bush, unexcelled for bouquet and vase work, and running the range of every color shade found in the larger classes. We are great rooters for this class and believe we grow more varieties of it than any other grower.

Flowers of this type for show purposes should be double ball shaped rather than flat, full to center, petals quilled or with rolled-in edges, rounded tops and less than 2 inches in diameter.

ADELAIDE.	Blush, edged lavender	.25
ADMIRAL DOT.	Perfect flower. Tinged lavender	.50
ALEC.	Cerise, tipped white	.35
AIMEE.	Bronze	.50
AMBER QUEEN.	Amber, shaded apricot	.35
ANNIE DONCASTER.	Yellow base, suffused pearly pink	.50
ARIEL.	Buff, tinted orange. Splendid cutter	.25
ARTHUR.	Brilliant scarlet. Small and well formed	1.00
BACCHUS.	Bright scarlet	.25
BELLE OF SPRINGFIELD.	Red, very small	.50
BOB.	Compact bloom of dull red	.75
BRUNETTE.	Crimson, showing white	.25
CARDINAL.	Intense fiery scarlet, long stem	.35
CHARMING.	Lavender pink	.50
CLEO.	Yellow, tipped lightly with red; small	.50
CYBELE.	Rich dark crimson maroon; perfectly formed	.25
CYRIL.	Almost black, very small and finely formed	.35
DAINTY.	White shaded pink	.75
DAISY.	Amber salmon	.50
DANDY.	Orange, very free	.75
DARKEYE.	White ground, tipped lavender	.25
DARKEST OF ALL.	Black maroon, grand	.50
DEE-DEE.	A dainty witch in lavender	.75
DORIS.	Distinct shade of cream of finest form. Profuse bloomer	.75
DOUGLAS TUCKER.	Golden yellow edged crimson	.50
DR. JIM.	Purple, shaded white	.25
EDITH BRYANT.	Yellow, shaded reddish bronze	.50
ELIZABETH.	Golden yellow, edged brownish red	.50
ERNEST HARPER.	Coral red	.35
EUNICE.	White, with a lavender edge; good for cutting	.50
FASHION.	Orange	.35
GANYMEDE.	A beautiful shade of fawn	.50
GENE.	Light gold with brown-eyed center. Fine cut flower	.75
GEORGE IRELAND.	A dainty mauve, fine stems	.50
GIRLIE.	Pinkish mauve, splendid	.50
GLORIA WYNNE.	Sold out for 1926	
GLOW.	Salmon-cerise. A flame	.50
GOLDIE.	Pure gold	.75
GOLDEN QUEEN.	Rich yellow	.25
GRAUS AM. WEIN.	Soft amber shaded cerise	.25
GYPSY.	Yellow, flushed red. Small	.75
HARRY SNOOK.	Clear rosy pink. Fine	.50
HAZEL.	Small, finely formed, of buff deepening to brown	.75
HEDWIG POLLWIG.	Red with white blotches	.50
HELEN COTTRELL.	Baby pink, large	.50
HIAWATHA.	Deep, blackish maroon crimson	1.00
HIGHLAND MARY.	Pink and white	.25
HILDA SEARLE.	Yellow tipped red	.35
HYPATIA.	Amber, shaded fawn	.75

IDEAL.	Clear yellow	.50
JANET.	Dark rich salmon. Neat form	.50
JANUS.	Ruby crimson	.25
JESSICA.	Amber edged red	.25
JOE FETTE.	A tiny white	.50
JOHNNIE.	Maroon-crimson, beautifully formed	.35
KIM.	Bright orange and a good cut flower	.50
KLEINE DOMATA.	Orange buff	.25
LASSIE.	Yellow tipped rose	.35
LILIAS.	One of the loveliest pompons. Cream ground heavily suffused with pink with a lilac sheen. Very beautiful	.75
LITTLE BEESWING.	Golden yellow, tipped cherry red	.50
LITTLE DONALD.	Dark crimson; small and good form	.50
LITTLE HERMAN.	Red and white	.25
LITTLE JENNIE.	Primrose, and very free	.50
MACBETH.	White, edged pink	.50
MADELINE.	Pale primrose, edged purple	.50
MARIETTA.	Deep rosy crimson, fine for cutting	.50
MARY CLIFT.	Light maroon	.25
MIDGET.	Salmon shaded peach	.25
MIKE.	A charming burnt orange, shading lighter at outer petals	1.00
MONTAGUE WOOTEN.	White edged and shaded lake	.50
NAUTILUS.	Rich apricot, with golden yellow center	.35
NELLIE BROMHEAD.	Mauve on light ground	1.00
OMEGA.	Amethyst, tipped white	.75
OLETA.	Soft oriental red, with extra long, stiff stems	1.00
PANSY.	Violet, or King Tut purple. Very striking color	.50
PEE WEE.	Soft yellow shading to brown	.50
PHOEBE.	Orange scarlet, fine	.50
PHYLLIS.	Deep yellow, shaded and edged red; good form. Very small	.50
PORTIA.	Deep mauve, shaded pink, silver center	.50
PRIDE.	Dark crimson scarlet; very perfect form	.25
PRINCESS ROSINE.	Salmon pink	.50
PSYCHE.	Orange, shaded pink; flat	.25
RED INDIAN.	Deep coral red	.25
RENO.	Rose, shaded old gold	.75
SARAH BERNHARDT.	Yellow tipped cerise	.50
SNOWCLAD.	White	.25
SNOWBIRD.	A fine white, grand stem	1.00
SUNBEAM.	A flaming crimson scarlet	.25
SUNSET.	A delightful orange, one of the most popular	.35
THORBE.	Yellow ground, shading lavender	.25
TINY TIM.	Soft peach pink, one of the best	1.00
TOM THUMB.	Garnet red. A winner in the smallest flower class	.50
TULLA.	Wine crimson, wonderful bloomer	.35
VIVID.	Bright orange scarlet	.25
WHISPER.	Yellow edged red	.25
WINSOME.	Real pink. Wonderful exhibition flower	1.00
YELLOW GEM.	Creamy yellow, small and fine form	.50



Frost Tonight

*Apple-green west and an orange bar;
And the crystal eye of a lone, one star . . .
And, "Child, take the shears, and cut what you will,
Frost to-night—so clear and dead-still."*

*Then I sally forth, half sad, half proud,
And I come to the velvet, imperial crowd,
The wine-red, the gold, the crimson, the pied—
The dahlias that reign by the garden-side.*

*The dahlias I might not touch till to-night!
A gleam of shears in the fading light,
And I gathered them all—the splendid throng,
And in one great sheaf I bore them along.*

* * * * *

*In my garden of Life with its all late flowers
I heed a Voice in the shrinking hours:
"Frost to-night—so clear and dead-still" . . .
Half sad, half proud, my arms I fill.*

EDITH M. THOMAS

